



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 people in the United States contracted pertussis, more commonly known as "Whooping Cough" in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the majority of deaths due to Whooping Cough in 2012 were among babies younger than 3 months of age; and

WHEREAS, giving babies the recommended immunizations by age two is the best way to protect them from pertussis and giving teenagers the recommended immunizations by 12 years of age is the best way to protect them from the disease, and giving adults at least one dose of the recommended immunizations is the best way to protect them from Whooping Cough and to keep both teens and adults from spreading it to babies; and

WHEREAS, currently, the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history of treating the disease and people who are unvaccinated can cause outbreaks of diseases such as pertussis; and

WHEREAS, it is important to vaccinate children on time, according to the childhood immunization schedule, to provide the best protection early in life, when babies are vulnerable and before they are likely to be exposed to diseases; and

WHEREAS, National Infant Immunization Week encourages parents, caregivers, and health care professionals to participate in educational, recognition, and media events to highlight the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children; and

WHEREAS, this year, during National Infant Immunization Week, Chicago will be educating parents, caregivers, and healthcare professionals to ensure that their children are protected from whooping cough and 13 other vaccine preventable diseases by the age of two through knowledge and availability of resources and outcomes:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20–27, 2013 to be NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK IN CHICAGO and encourage parents to make vaccinating themselves and their children a priority, and to talk to family and friends about protecting themselves and their children with vaccines.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2013.

Mayor